

1913.



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BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

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# Annual Reports

— OF —

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,

*Medical Officer of Health, and*

WILLIAM H. PARHAM,

*Sanitary Inspector,*

— FOR THE —

**Year Ending 31st December, 1913.**

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1914.

# BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

of Medical Officer of Health, to the Urban Sanitary Authority,

*For Year, 1913.*

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I beg to submit, as Medical Officer of Health, my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Borough and the general Health of its population and the Sanitary work done during the year 1913.

The Borough of Faversham is a little over one square mile in area and comprises the Parishes of Faversham Within and Preston Within. Its boundaries are; on the south, the main London and Canterbury Road; on the west, a stream running from Ospringe Street to join the head of the Creek; thence in a northerly direction the Creek forms the boundary as far as where it is joined by Thorn Creek; on the east a line running thence across the marshes to Love Lane, which runs into the Canterbury Road. The north-eastern portion is marshy land and thinly populated; from this and from the Creek the ground gradually rises to the south; the subsoil is chiefly clay and brick earth, also chalk; in some parts the brick earth has been removed and manufactured into bricks, but many houses are built directly on the clay.

As mentioned in previous reports, the brickmaking industry which was formerly a large one, has much declined; this has also had an effect on the barge traffic, as a large proportion of the bricks made, were conveyed away by water; the result of this has been considerable imigration from the town and so counteracting the natural increase of population; there are two large powder works outside the borough which employ many of the inhabitants; there are also two breweries and many of the people are employed in seafaring occupations.

### STATISTICS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The number of Births registered was 254 to which must be added 4 more transferable to the Borough list, making a total of 258, giving a birth-rate of 23.8 per 1000 of estimated population; this is a great increase on the previous year when the total was 221 with a rate of 20.6. Of this number there were 123 males and 135 females; 12 births were registered as belonging to the Parish of Preston Within; the rest were in Faversham Within; in 1913 there were 18

illegitimate births as against 12 in 1912; only 2 of these died in infancy. Eleven children were registered as having died from premature birth as against 8 in the previous year.

The number of deaths actually registered in the Borough during 1913 was 133, giving an uncorrected death-rate of 12.3 per 1000 of estimated population; but to obtain the nett or corrected death rate, the usual corrections must be made.

First of all must be subtracted from this total those deaths occurring in the Borough, generally in public institutions, like the Cottage Hospital, of persons who belonged to other districts; during the year these numbered six. Then on the other side we have to add 29 deaths of Borough residents which occurred in various other districts, generally in public institutions whither they had gone for treatment, as follows:

Faversham Union Infirmary	...	15
Chartham Asylum	...	3
Kennaways Hospital	...	2
Rural District (Faversham)	...	4
Various Districts	...	5
Total		<u>29</u>

There were 9 deaths in Public Institutions in the Borough, of these 7 were in the Cottage Hospital. Of the full total of deaths 7 occurred in the Parish of Preston Within.

These corrections give a final total of 156 deaths which can be ascribed to the Borough of Faversham; this gives a nett death rate of 14.4 per 1000, rather higher than the average of the last five years. In calculating these rates I can only work on an estimate of the population based on the increase of births over deaths; possibly my estimate may be too low, as there are reasons to think there may have been some additions to the population by immigration during the past year; if so then my calculated rates would be rather high; owing to the local conditions, it is not an easy question to decide.

Only three of the deaths were uncertified.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Again I am pleased to note a low rate of Infantile Mortality; the actual number of deaths under one year of age being only 15 as against 17 in the previous year which was itself a low number; as the number of births was larger than usual the rate per 1000 births was exceptionally low, viz. 58.1.



*Infantile Mortality—continued.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.		1913	1912
Premature Birth and Congenital Causes		11	9
Whooping Cough	...	0	1
Bronchitis	...	0	2
Pneumonia	...	1	3
Diarrhoea, Enteritis, Gastritis	..	2	2
Other Causes	...	1	0
		<hr/> 15	<hr/> 17
Deaths of illegitimate Infants	...	2	1
Uncertified deaths of ditto	...	0	1

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.		1913	1912
Enteric Fever	...	0	2
Measles	...	0	1
Scarlet Fever	...	1	0
Whooping Cough	...	0	1
Diphtheria	...	1	2
Influenza	...	3	6
Erysipelas	...	0	1
Diarrhoeal Diseases	...	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	10	7
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	3	4
Cancer	...	14	16
Rheumatic Fever	...	0	1
Heart Disease	...	10	11
Respiratory Diseases	...	17	22
Accidents and Suicides	...	8	6
Premature Birth and Congenital Causes		11	9
Nephritis	...	8	3

This list shows all the well defined causes of death as classified in the tables; very few shew any difference calling for special mention; the number of deaths due to the principal Zymotic Diseases is only 7 as against 15 in the previous year which is a great improvement; there were 71 deaths of persons of the age of 65 years and upwards as against 57 in 1912.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

The total number of cases notified to me during the year under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act and the Tuberculosis Notification Act was 129 as against 106 in 1912.

This increase is due to two causes ; first to an increase in the amount of Diphtheria in the latter half of the year ; and secondly to the extension of the notification of Tuberculosis to cases other than Phthisis ; at the commencement of the year it was ordered that all cases of Tuberculosis should be notified in whatever region of the body they occurred ; 9 cases were notified under this heading, for which we have no corresponding number for last year.

Out of the full total of notified cases there were 15 deaths—1 from Scarlet Fever, 1 from Diphtheria, 10 from Phthisis and 3 from other Tubercular Diseases.

It has not been found necessary at any period of the year to make use of the Small Pox Hospital at Luddenham for that complaint or for any other purpose ; it has been visited by myself at times and is in good order and ready for use should occasion arise ; some minor repairs to it have been found necessary.

The Isolation Hospital at Kennaways has been fully used during the year, only for a short period was it necessary to refuse admission to cases, owing to the number of Diphtheria cases requiring isolation. There were 79 cases removed there and treated with only 2 deaths.

During the past year we were troubled very little with Measles or Whooping Cough ; there were a few cases of Mumps but no epidemic ; Scarlet Fever cases have been few and scattered evenly throughout the year.

In my last report I mentioned that Diphtheria cases had reappeared in some numbers after a prolonged absence ; in 1911 there were only 8 cases, in 1912, 39, and in 1913, 76 ; no doubt during the absence of this complaint a large number of susceptible children were growing up and when it was once established, it spread very easily by personal infection ; the cases were of varying degrees of severity but only one death resulted. It was in July that the cases began to increase but the closing of the schools and the long summer holiday had a great effect in diminishing it ; it was practically gone when the schools reopened, but although they had been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected the cases of Diphtheria reappeared in two or three weeks and began to increase in number again, so that I decided to advise the closing of the Infant School which contained most cases ; this was done and at the same time the premises were again disinfected, also I examined a large mass of materials which were used in common by the children, such as pencils, penholders, plasticine, cardboard counters, etc. ; some of these were thoroughly

disinfected and those which would not stand the process were destroyed. After this the epidemic diminished and gradually disappeared; a special report on all the circumstances, was made at the time by myself and copies forwarded to the usual authorities.

In connection with this and also throughout the year the services of the Bacteriological Laboratory at Maidstone have been most useful; numerous swabs have been sent for report from doubtful cases, also from patients before leaving the Isolation Hospital making it a practical certainty that their return home will be unattended by danger to the other inmates of the house; specimens from suspected cases of Enteric and Phthisis have also been sent and reports received in return.

In several cases doses of Antitoxin supplied by the Authority were used with great benefit. In spite of careful investigation I could not find any connection between the cases and any particular Milk Supply; nor with any special sanitary defects; no doubt a certain number of mild cases were left undiscovered and therefore infective; to try and detect these I made numerous visits to the houses of the scholars away from school, under such circumstances as might suggest a possibility of their being slight cases of this disease, and when they were not being attended by any medical man. I must acknowledge my indebtedness in this connection to the Teachers of the Elementary Schools, who were most zealous and helpful in giving me such information as would enable this to be done

As usual we have had a certain amount of Influenza in the earlier part of the year which accounted for 3 deaths and very probably from its debilitating effects was the indirect cause of many more than that.

	Notified		Removed to Hospital	
	1913	1912	1913	1912
Diphtheria ...	76	39	62	34
Erysipelas ...	13	3	0	1
Scarlet Fever ...	16	45	13	41
Enteric Fever ..	5	3	4	1
Puerperal Fever ...	0	1	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	15	4	8
Other do	9	0	3	0
	<hr/> 129	<hr/> 106	<hr/> 86	<hr/> 85

Of the total notified cases 10 belonged to the Parish of Preston Within, viz., Diphtheria 6, Erysipelas 2, and Scarlet Fever



2. Of the 9 cases of local Tuberculosis, 2 were brought into the Hospital from the Rural District for treatment and so should properly be deducted from this list.

In all cases after death or removal of a patient, disinfection has been well carried out and enquiries made to ascertain if possible the source from which infection arose; the Schools have been communicated with and directions given to prevent the spread of disease.

### **PHTHISIS.**

For the first time all cases of Tuberculosis, in whatever region of the body they might occur, have been made notifiable; the figures regarding this disease have been already given with the other notifiable diseases; some have gone away for Sanatorium treatment, others have been receiving special treatment, such as injections of tuberculin, under the National Health Insurance Act. All cases notified have received special instructions as to their habits and ways of living and the necessary precautions to avoid infection.

### **WATER SUPPLY.**

The Public Water Supply of the Borough is derived from deep wells in the chalk at a little distance from the town and on a higher level; the situation does not give rise to any anxiety as to risk of contamination; it is good in quality and quantity, but of a high degree of temporary hardness owing to the strata through which it passes; the amount of permanent hardness is small. Twice during the year has it been analysed on behalf of the Sanitary Authority and favourable reports received. Five samples of drinking water have been analysed from various other sources in the Borough, in cases where complaints have been received or where infectious disease has occurred on the premises; in three cases good reports were received, in the other two, evidences of sewage contamination were found and the sources of supply were closed; in one of these cases the public supply was laid on, in the other water from another well was found to be available.

### **MILK.**

There are at present 23 Milkshops, Dairies, etc., in the Borough, the number varies from time to time as the small general shops which form some of the premises are a fluctuating quantity; of these 17 obtain their milk from premises in the Borough; the other 6 sell milk brought in from farms or cow-sheds outside; most of the small shops never store any milk, it

is received in small quantity directly into a vessel in the shop and sold straight away; these shops are regularly visited and instructions given as to the cleaning and covering of the containing vessels, so as to avoid contamination from the various articles that form the rest of the stock-in-trade. The larger Dairies have satisfactory arrangements for storage.

In the Borough are two lots of cowsheds which are both kept in a cleanly and satisfactory manner, they have been regularly inspected.

Four samples of milk, taken at random, have been sent for analysis, in all cases the result was good.

### **SLAUGHTER HOUSES & BAKEHOUSES.**

There are 9 premises registered as Slaughter Houses and 20 Bakehouses in the Borough; among the Bakehouses are, 1 underground Bakehouse and 3 Factory Bakehouses; i.e.: those in which machinery is employed and so bringing them under the provisions of the Factory Act; no new premises under any of these headings have been registered during the year.

Every endeavour, by means of regular inspection and instruction, has been made to ensure the carrying out of the Byelaws on these premises; the Slaughter Houses are the more troublesome, as the men working in them, from force of habit, get familiarised with the unpleasant conditions under which they work and lose sight of the fact that in their work the border line of unhealthiness is soon crossed; it is only by watchfulness that such places can be kept as they should be, especially as they are mostly in immediate contact with dwelling houses. In one case where the paving was very defective and no attempt made to remedy it; the Council were compelled in the end to prosecute and obtained a conviction and an order for the work to be done.

### **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

These are now no offensive trades carried on in the Borough, the one formerly in existence is now discontinued, the premises are still used for the collection of skins, but these are being regularly removed, and no offence arising. The Frying of Fish is carried out on four premises, but without nuisance, as they are carefully managed.

### **COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**

There are 5 premises licensed as Common Lodging Houses; 3 of them being on licensed premises; there is nothing special to report about them; they have been regularly inspected and



attention given, where required, to such matters as Ventilation, Whitewashing, Cleanliness and adequacy of Sanitary arrangements. There are also two private houses let out in rooms, as lodgings in separate rooms to poor people which do not come under the regulations as Common Lodging Houses, but which are in great need of regular inspection and supervision as they are liable to be very dirty and kept in a bad condition; I should recommend the Authority to consider seriously the adoption of Bye-laws to deal with this matter.

## FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

The total number of places liable to inspection under this heading is 126.

Factories 23. Workshops 103.

		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories	...	61	2	0
Workshops	...	247	9	0
		<hr/> 308	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 0

		Defects found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	...	8	8
Sanitary accommodation defective		3	3
		<hr/> 11	<hr/> 11

### Registered Workshops.

Dressmakers and Milliners	...	22
Bakehouses	...	18
Bootmakers	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	49
		<hr/> 103

There is one underground bakehouse which is kept in good condition.

The occupations carried on in them may be classified as follows :—

Dressmaking	Basket-making
Millinery	Cabinet do.
Tailoring	Umbrella do.
Bakehouses	Harness do.
Breweries	Boot do.
Printers	Sail do.
Wheelwrights	Brush do.
Saddlers	Rag sorting
Cycle repairers	Wool do.
Carpenters and Builders	Monumental Masons
etc.	Coach builders
	etc.

**HOME WORK.**—The home work carried on in the Borough is chiefly in the way of alterations and repairs to boots and clothes for the bigger shops in the town; three lists have been received in response to four notices sent out, these embrace twelve workpeople. The work seems to be carried out under satisfactory conditions and no case of infectious disease has been notified from any of the premises.

### **HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.**

This work has been regularly continued during the past year and a very large number of houses inspected in different parts of the town under my directions.

No. of houses inspected	...	...	506
No. of houses unfit for habitation	...	...	1
No. of houses where defects were found	...	...	302
Total number of defects found	...	...	623
Total number of defects remedied	...	...	465
Total number of defects outstanding	...	...	156

The detailed list of defects will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. The official record of the work has been kept and produced at the Meetings of the Health Committee.

An additional amount of house inspection has also been done under the Public Health Acts.

Inspections	...	949	
Defects found	...	132	
Informal Notices	...	129	
Defects remedied	...	132	Leaving none outstanding

## SEWERAGE.

During the year the new scheme of sewerage has been completed, and the station for treatment of the sewage is now in full working order. Many of the old defective sewers have been relaid and in some parts a separate system for rain water has been installed; the old out-falls into the creek in the lower parts of the town have been cut off and all the sewage from those parts of the town below the level of the main sewer in Abbey Street has been conducted to the Ejector station on the Quays; from this it is pumped by automatic machinery to the proper level at the top of Quay Lane; this station works very satisfactorily but it was found that the amount of water to be dealt with was much in excess of the estimate, after investigation it was found that this was caused by a large amount of surface spring water which was entering into the drains in Conduit Street and Flood Lane through leaky joints; to remedy this, these drains have been relayed and the result is most satisfactory and means a great saving in the cost of working the ejector station.

The sewage works proper consist of the screening and pumping station and the tanks and filter beds; these are situated near the Creek below the town and just inside the Borough; the pumps are electrically driven and deliver the sewage after screening on to the slate bed tanks for purification after which it passes through sprinklers to the filter beds; the result is an effluent of high quality.

The sewers of the town should now be in a very good condition as so many old and out of date ones have been removed and replaced; they are well ventilated by shafts and give rise to no nuisance.

Most of the houses in the Borough, excepting parts of Preston and Ospringle have water closets, many of them are equipped with flushing cisterns but a large number have still to depend on handflushing which is not always carried out thoroughly enough to ensure cleanliness.

No. of houses in Borough	...	2839
No. of Freshwater Closets	...	2434
No. of Privies (movable receptacles)	...	22
No. of Privies (fixed receptacles)	...	6
Conversions from privies to water closets		0

The scavenging and street watering are done by the Authority itself under the management of the Surveyor, the refuse collected is carted to a depot outside the Borough and burnt there; I cannot regard many of the receptacles in which the rubbish is put out in the street for collection as being of a satisfactory nature.



## SCHOOLS.

There are three Public Elementary Schools in the Borough. In two cases comprising Boys, Girls and Infants Department, the other, the Wesleyan is for Girls and Infants only. The drainage and general conditions of these have been satisfactory; they have been well cleansed and at times have also been disinfected.

Owing to the prevalence of Diphtheria in the Autumn, it was found necessary to close the Infants Department of the Council Schools for three weeks in November, and extra disinfection was carried out in all the Schools.

The water supply to all the Schools is from the town mains.

**MEDICAL INSPECTION.**—All children entering and leaving the Schools have been examined and the results entered and tabulated.

	1913	1912
Afternoons attended	39	43
Children Examined	493	519
Serious defects	102	85
Percentage	20.6	16.3

This table shews a small decrease in the number of examinations but an increase in the number of seriously defective children; there are also large numbers of minor and less urgent troubles which are not included in this number.

The largest number of cases requiring urgent attention is those of defective vision; many children are unable to profit as they should from their school work owing to this trouble and when accompanied by eyestrain it also causes ill health and suffering which could be easily remedied by the provision of suitable glasses; many parents are unable to provide this and others appear indifferent as long as the children can see in any fashion at all.

The other common defects are decayed teeth and enlarged tonsils and adenoids, the latter have decreased in number, as parents now seem more alive to the disadvantage of them and it easy to have them attended to at the Hospital.

All cases of children suspected to be suffering from infectious disease when attending school are referred to me for examination; also cases kept at home without medical attendance, which might possibly be overlooked infectious cases are visited, in this way we may unearth slight cases which might otherwise cause a good deal of mischief.

**INSPECTION.**

During the year I have made systematic Inspections of the various premises in the Borough, and numerous other visits at different times as occasion arose in connection with complaints of nuisance, or cases of infectious disease, or under the House-to-House Inspection Act.

Factories	...	...	136
Workshops	...	...	39
Bakehouses	...	...	37
Dairies etc.	...	...	25
Slaughter Houses	...	...	18
Common Lodging Houses			11
Stables	...	...	5
Others	...	...	21
			<hr/>
			292
			<hr/>

I append to the Report the usual tables of Vital Statistics, many points are given in a fuller manner in them as also in the report of the Sanitary Inspector which accompanies this; these tables have been considered in drawing up the report and comparison given between this and previous years.

I beg to remain,

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.

*February 26th, 1914.*

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# BOROUGH of FAVERSHAM.

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## **Sanitary Inspector's Report for Year ending December 31st, 1913.**

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Faversham.

Your Worship and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you a report of the work of my Department during the year 1913.

From the statistics given herein, the Council will observe that considerable attention has been given to the work of Inspection under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, and that a large number of defects &c., have thus been brought to light and remedied.

It is to be regretted that the Council have been unable to see their way to take action with regard to the provision, by owners or occupiers of premises, of proper sanitary dustbins. The Council will doubtless recollect that in my last Annual Report, I dealt with this matter at some length, and I feel it my duty to again draw attention to the pressing need for improvement.

In discussing the matter when it was last before them, the Council confined their attention almost entirely to the consideration of the method of collection by the scavengers, and a resolution was passed to the effect that, where possible, the receptacles should be removed from the backs of the houses by the scavengers, and not placed on the kerb by the tenants of the houses, as had hitherto been done. Difficulty was experienced in carrying this into effect, the resolution was rescinded, and the old system reverted to.

I venture to think that, as stated in my former Report, the objection to the present state of affairs lies not so much in the method of collecting the refuse, as in the unsatisfactory receptacles in which it is stored, and the nuisance caused by the refuse littering the streets when the receptacles are put out to be emptied is far less serious than that caused by the foul and uncovered boxes &c., in the back yards of the cottages.



A wooden box or worn out bucket is not, and cannot be converted into a satisfactory receptacle for house refuse, and unless the use of proper sanitary dustbins can be insisted upon, I fear the present unsatisfactory conditions will never be materially improved.

Another matter which I desire to bring to the notice of the Council, is the desirability of extending their Bye-Laws relating to Nuisances in such a manner as to regulate the keeping of Fowls, Rabbits &c., on premises.

At present it is possible to keep animals of this description anywhere, even within a dwelling house, provided that no actual nuisance can be proved to exist in consequence, and it is a common practice to keep them in close proximity to, or even adjoining dwelling houses. This is, for many reasons, an undesirable practice, and it is desirable that the Council should possess greater power to deal with it than they can now exercise.

With the sanction of the Local Government Board, a Bye-Law may be made, fixing the minimum distance from a dwelling house at which Fowls, Rabbits &c., may be kept, and I would suggest that the Council make some such addition to their existing Nuisance Bye-Laws.

A third point to which I would specially refer, is the question of the control of "Houses Let In Lodgings" of which there are now two in the Borough, an additional one having been opened during the past year. These are houses let out in separate rooms to persons of the poorest class, who live and sleep in the one room they rent. At present, no greater control can be exercised over these houses than over an ordinary dwelling house, and your officers have no special power to enter and inspect them. As premises of this description are particularly liable to be overcrowded and dirty and to be in a bad state of repair, it is desirable that they should have special supervision in a somewhat similar manner to Common Lodging Houses. This could be secured by the adoption of Bye-Laws, made under Section 90 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

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The following is a brief account of the various matter dealt with during the past year, to which is appended a Summary showing the number of inspections &c., made, and the results thereof.

## WORK UNDER THE HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Under this heading, a considerable amount of work has been accomplished during the year. Visits were made to 506 houses (an increase of over 200 on last year) resulting in the discovery of 623 defects of various descriptions. Of the 506 houses inspected 302 were found defective in some respect, and in the remaining 204 no faults were found of sufficient importance to call for action.

The portions of the Borough dealt with during the year were as follows:—

Park Road	Garfield Place
Belmont Road	Nelson Street
Kingsnorth Road	St. Mary's Road (part)
Thomas Square	Abbey Street (part)
Water Lane	Belvedere Road
Quay Lane	Pump Yard
Conduit Street	Napleton Place
Partridge Lane	Garden Place
Westgate Road	King's Road
Minster Road	School Road

The following is a classified lists of the defects found:—

### (1) STRUCTURAL DEFECTS IN HOUSES.

Damp walls	-	-	108
Defective floors	-	-	90
Defective roofs	-	-	57
Defective eaves gutters	-	-	32
Defective windows	-	-	32
Insufficient ventilation	-	-	9
No eaves gutters	-	-	7
Defective ceilings	-	-	7
			342

### (2) DRAINAGE AND OTHER DEFECTS.

Improperly paved yards	-	82
Rainwater pipes direct to drain		50
Defective sinks and waste pipes		43
Defective water closets	-	32
Defective drains and gulleys	-	28
Flush tanks out of order	-	11
Insufficient ventilation to W.C.-		11
Mason and bell traps	-	4
Insufficient drains	- :	2
Various other matters	-	18
		<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 281

Total	623
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In addition to items of ordinary repair, a large number of old stone sinks were replaced by glazed ware sinks of modern pattern, many damp and defective brick floors were paved with concrete, about fifty rainwater pipes were disconnected from drains, and many yards were re-paved with concrete.

It is satisfactory to note that the whole of these improvements have been effected without the service of a single statutory notice, and in the great majority of cases without a second request being necessary.

I desire to express my thanks to the owners of property in the Borough for the very fair manner in which they have met my requests for the execution of repairs to the various houses with which I have dealt during the year, and also to the occupiers for the facilities afforded me in making my inspections.

It may be of interest to review the work done in the Borough, under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, since its commencement in October, 1910:—

HOUSES INSPECTED.			DEFECTS FOUND.
1910	-	91	96
1911	-	200	91
1912	-	302	285
1913	-	506	623
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		1099	1095
		<hr/>	<hr/>

### NUISANCES DEALT WITH UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1875 - 1907.

The following is a classified list of these:—

Choked drains	-	-	38
Dirty W.C.'s	-	-	21
Accumulations of refuse	-	-	16
Improper water supply	-	-	7
Overcrowded houses	-	-	4
Nuisances from animals	-	-	4
Defective drain ventilators	-	-	4
Overflowing cesspools	-	-	2
Dirty house	-	-	1
Defective drain	-	-	1
Smoke nuisance	-	-	1
Other matters	-	-	2



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Owing to the prevalence of Diphtheria, the Infants' Department of the Council Schools was closed for three weeks during November and carefully disinfected throughout. Four classrooms in the Girls' Department of the same Schools were also disinfected, as also were all the rooms in the Infants' Department of the District Schools earlier in the year.

In making inquiries after cases of infectious disease, I made 167 visits to houses, and 192 rooms were disinfected by formalin spray and fumigation.

The drainage systems at the District and Council Schools were examined and tested during the year and found to be in good order.

### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS and MILKSHOPS.

The following persons are now on the register ---

Cowkeepers	-	-	2
Purveyors (resident in Borough)	-	-	2
Purveyors (resident outside Borough)			6
Keepers of Milkshops	-	-	13
			—
Total			23
			—

Fifty inspections were made during the year. It was necessary to draw the attention of several of the keepers of the smaller milkshops to the desirability of keeping their milk vessels covered, but beyond this no action was required in respect of these premises.

Four samples of milk were sent for analysis and all proved satisfactory.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Five premises in the Borough are registered as Common Lodging Houses.

Frequent inspections were made during the year and the premises on the whole have been very well kept.

Some slight structural defects were found in one house, which were remedied by the owner on request.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Three hundred and ninety inspections were made of the nine Slaughter Houses in the Borough. Many of these inspections were made while slaughtering was in progress and a large number of

carcases were examined for evidences of disease. In no case was it found necessary to make a formal seizure, the diseased portions found being mostly lungs and livers of Sheep which were disposed of by the butchers without any attempt being made to offer them for sale.

It is difficult to efficiently carry out the work of meat inspection in all cases. Slaughtering may be in progress at several slaughter houses, in various parts of the town, at the same time, and in consequence a very large proportion of the meat escapes inspection altogether.

A considerable amount of trouble was experienced in inducing the occupier of one slaughter house to keep his premises in a cleanly condition. A special report was made to the Sanitary Committee on this case, and as a result of a letter from the Town Clerk, an improvement has been effected.

The defective condition of the paving of the yard adjoining another slaughter house, was the subject of proceedings by the Town Council against the owner of the premises, who failed to carry out the necessary repairs. A fine of £5 and costs was imposed and an order made for the execution of the work within 14 days.

### **FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.**

Three hundred and eight inspections were made of the 126 premises registered under this heading. For the most part they were found to be very well kept, but nine defects were found, and were remedied by the owners or occupiers of the premises on request.

Two matters were referred to the Council by H.M. Inspector of Factories, and were under consideration at the end of the year.

The following is a list of the premises now on the register:—

#### **FACTORIES :**

Printers	-	-	-	3
Millers	-	-	-	3
Bakehouses	-	-	-	2
Engineers	-	-	-	2
Brewers	-	-	-	2
Saw Mills	-	-	-	2
Sausage Makers	-	-	-	2
Motor Works	-	-	-	1
Electric Power Works	-	-	-	1

Carried forward

18

*Factories—Continued.*

Brought forward	-	-	-	18	
Brick Works	-	-	-	1	
Shipwright	-	-	-	1	
Laundry	-	-	-	1	
Gasworks	-	-	-	1	
Firewood Cutting	-	-	-	1	
				—	23
WORKSHOPS :					
Dressmakers	-	-	-	22	
Bakers	-	-	-	18	
Bootmakers	-	-	-	14	
Cycle Repairers	-	-	-	6	
Carpenters	-	-	-	6	
Tailors	-	-	-	5	
Blacksmiths	-	-	-	4	
Saddlers and Harness Makers	-	-	-	3	
Umbrella Makers	-	-	-	3	
Plumbers	-	-	-	3	
Coach Builders	-	-	-	2	
Basket Makers	-	-	-	2	
Tinsmiths	-	-	-	2	
Wheelwrights	-	-	-	2	
Sailmakers	-	-	-	2	
Cabinet Maker	-	-	-	1	
Mason	-	-	-	1	
Gunsmith	-	-	-	1	
Hoop Bender	-	-	-	1	
Wool Sorter	-	-	-	1	
Rag Sorter	-	-	-	1	
Model Maker	-	-	-	1	
Upholsterer	-	-	-	1	
Brush Maker	-	-	-	1	
					103
Total Factories and Workshops					126

**WATER SUPPLY.**

Seven samples of water were submitted to the Analysts during the year. Two samples taken from the public mains were pronounced satisfactory in all respects. Of the remaining five samples (all of which were taken from private wells in the Borough) three were found to be fit for drinking purposes, and two were unfavourably reported upon. The wells from which the last named samples were drawn, were closed, and in one case a new supply obtained from another well, and in the other from the public mains.



GENERAL SUMMARY showing the number of Inspections made, the number of defects and nuisances found during such Inspections, the action taken, and the results of such action.

### INSPECTIONS.

(a) PRIMARY INSPECTIONS.

*Dwelling Houses.*

Under the Housing (Inspection of District)		
Regulations	-	506
After cases of Infectious Disease	-	167
Interior Inspections for other purposes		16
Drains, W.C's., &c.	-	766

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Total Dwelling Houses		1455
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*Other Premises.*

Milkshops, Dairies and Cowsheds	-	50
Slaughter Houses	-	390
Factories	-	61
Workshops	-	197
Bakehouses	-	50
Stables	-	109
Manure Pits	-	24
Common Lodging Houses and others		108

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Total Primary Inspections		2444
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(b) Secondary Inspections, all classes - 621

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Total Inspections		3065
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### DEFECTS AND NUISANCES FOUND.

*Dwelling Houses.*

During Inspections under the Housing		
(Inspection of District) Regulations		623
During other Inspections	-	101

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Total Dwelling Houses		724
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*Other Premises.*

Factories, Workshops, &c.	-	11
Slaughter Houses	-	18
Common Lodging Houses	-	2

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Total defects found		755
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## ACTION TAKEN.

## INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED.

Respecting defects found during Inspections under Housing Regulations	-	136
Under Public Health Acts	-	129
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Total Informal Notices		265
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## STATUTORY NOTICES.

One Statutory Notice was served under the Public Health Acts. This notice and the subsequent proceedings are further dealt with in the part of this report dealing with Slaughter Houses.

## DEFECTS REMEDIED.

As a result of Inspections under the Housing Regulations, (in 441 houses)	465
As a result of other Inspections of all descriptions	132
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Total defects remedied	597
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## DEFECTS OUTSTANDING AT END OF YEAR.

In houses inspected under the Housing Regulations (in 65 houses)	-	158
In other premises	-	—
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Total defects outstanding		158
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The greater part of the outstanding defects are in houses inspected during the last two months of the year. In many cases orders have been given for the carrying out of the work, and in some instances it was in hand at the close of the year.

In concluding this, my Second Annual Report, I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also Dr. Evers, Medical Officer of Health, for their support and assistance to me in the execution of my duties during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. PARHAM,

Mem. R. San. Inst.

*Sanitary Inspector.*





